Amendments to the claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   *(Cancelled)*

2.   *(New)* An apparatus for electronic collaboration in an environment including a plurality of communities, each of the plurality of communities having a plurality of live users and at least one community administrator, the apparatus comprising:

a community creation database that receives and stores preliminary profile data associated with a candidate user, the preliminary profile data indicating an interest of the candidate user in joining one of the plurality of communities;

a first filter that validates the preliminary profile data, whereupon the candidate user associated with validated preliminary profile data is deemed acceptable for participation in said one of the plurality of communities, the first filter tailored to said one of the plurality of communities, wherein the candidate user associated with the validated preliminary profile data thereby becomes a live user of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities;

wherein the live user creates at least one profile, wherein the profile includes descriptive information relating to the live user;

a search engine that searches for another of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities with which to communicate; and

a second filter that monitors communications between the plurality of live users within said one of the plurality of communities, the second filter including at least a flagging filter that flags communications between the plurality of live users according to predetermined criteria, wherein flagged communications are reviewed prior to release to their intended recipient.

3.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein validation of the preliminary profile data includes an administrator of said one of the plurality of communities approving the candidate user.

4.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein validation of the preliminary profile data includes automatic validation based on one or more attributes of the preliminary profile data.

5.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the one or more attributes include one or more of previous approval by an administrator of a specific other one of the plurality of communities and previous validation as a live user in said one of the plurality of communities.

6.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the preliminary profile data indicates an interest of the candidate user in joining at least one other of the plurality of communities.

7.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one profile includes one or more of:

a group profile that is accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities,

an individual profile that is not accessible to the plurality of live users in said one

of the plurality of communities, and

a project profile that includes blind contact information regarding the live user.

8.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the search engine also searches

for live users in communities other than said one of the plurality of communities.

9.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one profile of the live

user includes one or more labels represent the descriptive information relating to the

live user and wherein the search engine searches for another of the plurality of live

users using labels associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.

10.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one profile may be

created by the live user in any language, wherein the language in which the at least one

profile was created is a characteristic of the at least one profile.

11.   *(New)* The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the search engine searches for

another of the plurality of live users using a language associated with profiles of the

plurality of live users.

12.   *(New)* A method for facilitating electronic collaboration in an environment

including a plurality of communities, each of the plurality of communities having a

plurality of live users and at least one community administrator, the method comprising:

receiving, at a community creation database, preliminary profile data associated

with a candidate user, the preliminary profile data indicating an interest of the candidate

user in joining one of the plurality of communities;

validating, at a first filter, the preliminary profile data, whereupon the candidate

user associated with validated preliminary profile data is deemed acceptable for

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participation in said one of the plurality of communities, the first filter tailored to said one of the plurality of communities, wherein the candidate user associated with the validated preliminary profile data thereby becomes a live user of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities;

enabling creation of at least one profile for the live user, wherein the profile includes descriptive information relating to the live user;

searching, at a search engine, for another of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities with which to communicate; and

monitoring communications between the plurality of live users within said one of the plurality of communities at a second filter, the second filter including at least a flagging filter that flags communications between the plurality of live users according to predetermined criteria, wherein flagged communications are reviewed prior to release to their intended recipient.

13. *(New)* The method of claim 12, wherein validating the preliminary profile data further comprises an administrator of said one of the plurality of communities approving the candidate user.

14. *(New)* The method of claim 12, wherein validating the preliminary profile data further comprises automatically validating the preliminary profile data based on one or more attributes of the preliminary profile data.

15. *(New)* The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more attributes include one or more of previous approval by an administrator of a specific other one of the plurality of communities and previous validation as a live user in said one of the plurality of communities.

16.   *(New)* The method of claim 12, wherein the preliminary profile data indicates an interest of the candidate user in joining at least one other of the plurality of communities.

17.   *(New)* The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one profile includes one or more of:

a group profile that is accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities,

an individual profile that is not accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities, and

a project profile that includes blind contact information regarding the live user.

18.   *(New)* The method of claim 12, further comprising searching, at the search engine, for live users in communities other than said one of the plurality of communities.

19.   *(New)* The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one profile of the live user includes one or more labels represent the descriptive information relating to the live user and wherein searching for another of the plurality of live users further comprises searching labels associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.

20.   *(New)* The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one profile may be created by the live user in any language, wherein the language in which the at least one profile was created is a characteristic of the at least one profile.

21.   *(New)* The method of claim 20, wherein searching for another of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities further comprises searching for another of the plurality of live users using a language associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.

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